This book provides clinical staff with the knowledge needed when they encounter children and their families in primary care.

At least 25% of primary care consultations are with children, and many of the problems encountered are specific to this population group. However, children do not represent a homogeneous population and several ages of childhood are recognized, each with its unique set of illnesses and problems: the neonate, infant, pre-school child, school age child and the adolescent. Furthermore, both the childhood population and their illnesses change with time; new illnesses such as HIV have appeared and others, not seen for many years (such as rickets, tuberculosis and congenital rubella syndrome) have returned. Thus a comprehensive knowledge of the varied aspects of child health is needed; recognition of the acutely ill child, developmental surveillance, immunization, treatment of chronic illness, and psycho-social issues.

This textbook provides practical guidance for Primary Care physicians, Nurse Practitioners and health care workers dealing with child health in the 21st century. It undertakes a focused, problem-orientated approach based on the more common childhood problems encountered. Each chapter includes the essential background theory, but the emphasis is on making the clinical approach relevant and sensitive to primary care. Solutions to clinical scenarios are provided, based upon current, best available evidence. Site and system specific chapters are combined with sections looking at wider issues such as ethics and law, multicultural issues, and immunization.

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